
Transportation Committee

HB 1864

Brief Description: Modifying citizen oversight of toll charges.

Sponsors: Representatives Kilmer, Woods, Lantz, Appleton, Green and Hasegawa.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Tacoma Narrows Bridge (TNB) Citizen Advisory Committee members to be appointed proportionately from areas generating a majority of the trips across the bridge.
- The Citizen Advisory Committee is directed to look at the feasibility of providing discounts to frequent users, senior citizens and students.

Hearing Date: 2/24/05

Staff: Gary Lebow (786-7304).

Background:

The Tacoma Narrows Bridge toll project is authorized in 47.46 RCW. Toll projects developed under 47.46 RCW require an advisory vote if there is opposition to the project demonstrated by the submission of petitions bearing at least 5,000 signatures opposing the project and delivered to the department of transportation within 90 days after project selection. The department of transportation is required to conduct a study of traffic patterns and economic impact to determine the boundaries of the affected project area. The registered voters in the affected project area are eligible to participate in the advisory vote. The affected project area for the Tacoma Narrows Bridge project includes all of Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap and Thurston counties and portions of Mason, Pierce and King counties.

A citizen advisory committee is required for each project developed under 47.46 RCW. The 9 committee members are appointed by the Governor and must be permanent residents of the affected project area. The advisory committee advises the transportation commission, the toll setting authority, on all matters relating to the setting of tolls. No toll charge may be imposed or modified unless the advisory committee has been given at least twenty days to review and comment on the proposed toll schedule.

The project is currently under construction and is scheduled to begin collecting tolls in April, 2007. The members of the citizen advisory committee have not been appointed at this time.

Summary of Bill:

The members of the citizen advisory committee must be appointed proportionately from those areas which generate the most traffic as determined by a traffic analysis.

The citizen advisory committee is given additional direction to look at the feasibility of toll discounts for frequent users, senior citizens and students. In addition to the discounts, the committee is to look at the trade-off of providing discounts versus the early retirement of the debt.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.